

From: Bonnie L. Irwin
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/5/02 2:05pm
Subject: Opinion on Agreement

Attorney General John Ashcroft

US Department of Justice

950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

The Department of Justice and Microsoft recently reached an agreement after a long battle over antitrust practices. This agreement was equitable; both sides getting something each wanted. I was relieved to see the final chapter of a case that had costs millions of dollars and untold hours.

Now it appears Microsoft will have to share coding information with its competitors, and allow companies to promote its competitors' products unhindered. It is time to move on. We have spent enough time and money on this case. Microsoft is a solid, profitable, well-managed company, unlike some airline companies I know. As a grateful long-time user of Microsoft products, I find it ironic that those who seek to hinder innovation are often those folks whose secretaries have to print out their email.

Why is it that Congress bails out ill-managed companies, but yet goes after well-managed companies?

We need to let the terms of the settlement take hold and allow our IT sector to move forward.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Irwin

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